

PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT THE OLD DOMINION

The prettiest residential sections of the city which is immediately opposite Central Park on the eastern side and will in future be known as Park Place, \$225,000 has been appropriated by the city within the past five years for the paving of roadways and sidewalks, and the construction of new sewers, and extension of old ones, and this campaign of public improvements is still in active progress. The following is a comparative statement of the assessments of real and personal property for city taxation for 1907 and 1906:

1907: Real estate, \$7,812,191; personal property, \$7,085,090; total, \$14,897,281. 1906: Real estate, \$7,654,483; personal property, \$6,549,640; total, \$14,204,123. Increase, real estate, \$157,708; personal property, \$535,450; total, \$693,158.

This increase is shown when assessed values are very low, and an heir of a reduction in the tax rate within the last two years from \$1.60 to \$1.40 per \$100. One of the most urgently needed and important assets that the city could acquire was secured this year in the opening of the new hotel, the Stratford Hotel, the largest and best hotel here, owned by an organization of young business men. This, and the construction of a new telephone exchange, with the renewal of the entire system of the Petersburg Telephone Company, were two important features of the year's work.

The reorganized and revived Chamber of Commerce has provided an invaluable factor in the development and advertisement of the city's resources. A few of the notable results from its work were the establishment of a handsome exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition, the securing of the collection of manufactured products of Petersburg received a gold medal; the organization of the Retail Merchants' Association and the Petersburg Home Building Corporation, which were recently incorporated; the improvement of facilities for handling freight at the various railroad depots, and the work for the improvement of the Union Depot. The great work of diverting the channel of the Appomattox River for the purpose of securing a deep backwater harbor by the erection of a dam just above the Pocahontas bridge, is steadily progressing, and the Atlantic Dredging Company, of Philadelphia, is now working on the last section of the new two-mile channel, the dredges having reached the short stretch of meadow land in Pocahontas between the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad bridge and the river. The completion of this work will be followed by the erection of the dam between the Bishop and Pocahontas bridges.

At the time of the discontinuance of tobacco sales at the warehouses for the Christmas holidays, an aggregate of 2,236,915 pounds of loose tobacco had been sold on the Petersburg market this season at what are regarded as excellent prices, ranging from \$6 per hundred pounds for common leaves to \$35 for fine wrappers. Offerings have been very heavy during the past three weeks.

Dullness, with declining prices for Spanish nuts, characterized the peanut market this season up to a short time before Christmas, but a marked improvement has begun in the last few days. Prices for Spanish nuts have ranged from \$1 per bushel to 80 cents, and the market is now firm at the latter figure. The market for Virginia nuts is firm at 2 cents to 3 1/4 for fancy stock. The offerings have been very light up to this time. It is estimated that about one-half of the crop has been marketed.

Business Good in Tidewater.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
TIDEWATER, VA., December 28.—Business for the past year has been good all over the county. The bank

people say that 1907 was a better year than 1906. The money stringency has scarcely been felt here by either of the banks or any of the business houses, and this is also true of the other towns of the county. There has been some slight reduction in the forces employed at the mines and on the railroad in the county. However, the prices of farm products and coal still range high.

WEST POINT BOOMING

Decided Advancement Made in All Lines of Business During 1907.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WEST POINT, December 28.—While there has been no boom nor any great or decided advancement in the business circles of West Point during the year 1907, the steady prosperity and growth of the place has been marked. In spite of the stringency in the general money market, the shutting down of lumber mills in adjacent counties, thereby throwing many out of work, and the dullness of the oyster business, West Point has suffered comparatively little.

The Civic Improvement League, now forming, promises a great impetus to the town in the near future. The plans are not sufficiently formed to give so early to the public, but the idea is to attract local and foreign capital. The three telephone lines centering here are constantly growing, and in the last few weeks there has been need of doubling the switch-board in the central office.

There have been numerous inquiries as to real estate, but not as many sales recently as earlier in the year. The old merchants have had an unusually fine year.

Beach Park had the best year in its history.

The High School is doing good work, with five teachers in the white school. The Methodist, Baptist, Disciple, Episcopal and Catholic Churches are flourishing.

Building goes steadily on in various directions. The express business has been first-rate. Great improvements have been made in the docks and wharves of the Southern Railway Company.

All of these conditions, together with the good health, splendid artesian water and an abundance of fish, oysters and crabs, make West Point a comfortable place in which to live.

CREWE IS GROWING FAST

Becoming an Important Mercantile and Industrial Centre.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
CREWE, VA., December 28.—Crewe, situated on the Norfolk and Western, and which contains the round-house, machine shops, etc., midway between Roanoke and Norfolk. It has made rapid strides during the past year. From a strictly railroad town it is fast growing into a thriving business centre.

Mayor of the town, and with a wise Council is bringing things to pass. The banking facilities of the town are good. The Bank of Crewe has a capital of \$25,000. The Citizens' Bank is in a flourishing condition. The financial embarrassments throughout the country have not affected these institutions.

One of the latest enterprises is the planning mill of the Crewe Manufacturing Company. It is in active operation, having received no check during the late financial panic. The new Flouring Mill is greatly enlarged facilities for doing its work. An electric light plant is being put in that promises great things in the way of lights for the town. Our enterprising citizens, C. E. Wiley, at the head of this enterprise, which means success.

There is not a vacant house in the town, and a number of buildings are going up to supply the demand. Baptist and Christian churches have both been enlarged and improved during the year, and the new high school is approaching completion. The local merchants report business for the year excellent and the prospects good.

GATE CITY IS SOLID

New Industries Established and Business in All Lines Good.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
GATE CITY, VA., December 28.—New enterprises started at the close of this year were a cannery factory and a manufacturing establishment, both small affairs, but with prospects of success. A concrete postoffice building, two concrete storehouses and a three-story brick house made of white pressed brick, five fine dwelling houses are to be situated at Gate City. Merchants throughout the county are not expecting business next year to equal this year in volume, and are reducing their stocks. But all business is on a solid basis and no alarm is felt.

PROSPERITY IN STAUNTON

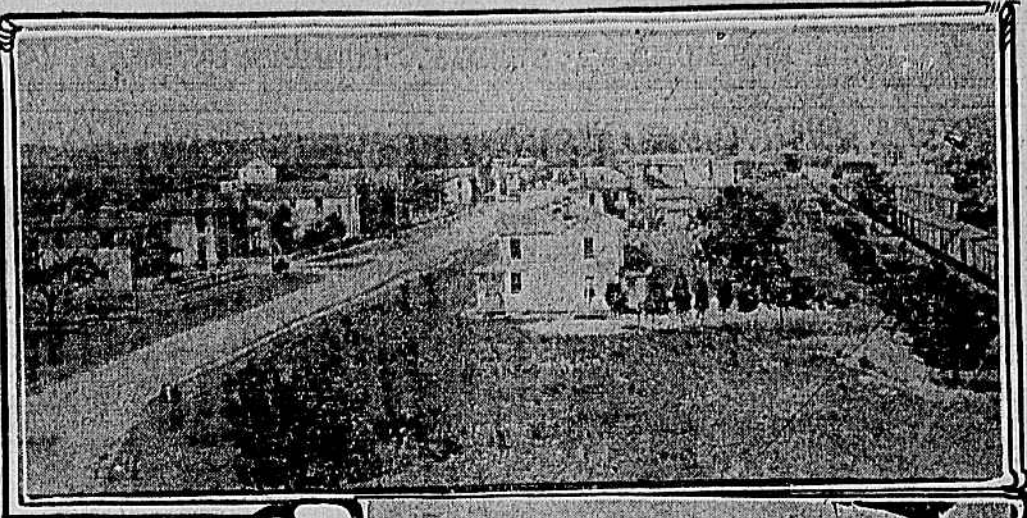
The Closing Year One of the Best in the History of the City.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
STAUNTON, VA., December 28.—The year of 1907 has been the most prosperous in every way in Staunton's history. In the heart of an agricultural section where good crops have been raised, with prices for all kinds of produce, live stock, cattle, butter and fowls and eggs ruling throughout remarkably high, Staunton has enjoyed a very large trade. The banks have had larger deposits than ever, and today, notwithstanding the troubles in money circles in the large centres, the banks here continue to receive and pay out money just as they have always done, and show no signs of decreasing business.

The industries of the town have been run at full capacity and are still so running. The largest of these, the organ factory of W. W. Putnam and Company, continues to grow and is selling organs in every part of the world. Within the year the head of the firm has returned from a tour of the Scandinavian countries, where he established agencies, other European countries having already been good customers of the concern for years. The Leader Mill Company, which has a plant at Bridgewater, has erected a plant here also for the manufacture of garden plows, with the capacity of 5,000 plows a month, and it is now in operation.

The Dudley Adding and Billing Machine Works, which manufacture machines for mathematical computations for use in banks and commercial houses, is offered by Baltimoreans.

THE THRIVING TOWN OF MINERAL



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF MINERAL, VA.

The factory is being enlarged to have a capacity of 500 machines a week. It employs the most skilled and the highest priced mechanics in the market. The older industries have been working full capacity.

Staunton is a school town, and never have the schools been so full, bringing much wealth to the town. Building has been active throughout the year, residences and business houses being steadily under construction, the demand for skilled labor being greatly in excess of the supply.

An attraction added to the city within the year is the opening of the beautiful Staunton Caverns right at the corporation line.

Altogether the town has been active and prosperous in every line of industry.

ACCOMAC PROSPEROUS

Farmers Doing Well and the Farms Show Marked Improvement.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
ACCOMAC, VA., December 28.—The year about closing has been one of general prosperity for Accomac. The principal crops, Irish and sweet potatoes, gave satisfactory returns. The yield of sweet potatoes was much below the average, but unusually high prices brought the gross receipts up to former years.

The Produce Exchange did a business of \$2,073,000, and the banks of the county show deposits of \$1,643,000. Much building is being done, and the farms generally show marked improvement. In Onancock several contracts for concrete buildings have been made, and three handsome residences of that material are nearing completion.

The electric road for freight and passengers from Onancock to Battle Point, upon which work is about being commenced, will unite the waters of the Chesapeake and Atlantic with the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad and with the Baltimore steamers, and promises great development to sections now somewhat remote from shipping facilities. The cost of the road and equipment will be \$175,000.

SHOWS DECIDED INCREASE

Business of Harrisonburg and County Above Par.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
HARRISONBURG, VA., December 28.—Estimates made by leading bankers and conservative business men, place the volume of business done in Harrisonburg during the year 1907 as being fully twenty-five per cent. more than ever before during a like period. Merchants and farmers have prospered, and bank deposits have shown a wonderful increase, notwithstanding the present financial stringency.

Builders have more work contracted for than ever before; more than sixty thousand dollars have been expended in new churches, and other work is under contract. Five banks are doing business in Rockingham, the deposits amounting to more than \$2,000,000, and the rate of discount is but five per cent. The People's Bank of Harrisonburg has recently secured a charter and will open for business early in February; the capital will be \$100,000.

Among the business ventures now settled upon is a \$15,000 cold storage plant to be erected by the Harrisonburg Ice Corporation; a \$15,000 farming implement distributing office by W. E. Swank; and a common battery telephone exchange to take the place of present magneto system, which will mean an outlay of \$20,000. The town levy is only sixty-five cents on the hundred dollars. All in all, Harrisonburg has had the most prosperous year in its history.

ALEXANDRIA SATISFIED

Year Just Past Most Prosperous, and Prospects for 1908 Are Excellent.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
ALEXANDRIA, VA., December 28.—The year just closing has been an unusually prosperous one for this city. More improvements have been made, more houses built, and there has been

more commercial enterprises started than in any previous year.

The Fairfax Apartment House Company is just completing a modern and fire-proof apartment house four stories high. The Young People's Building, known as the George R. Hill Memorial, has within the past month been completed by the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The Bliss Silk Throwing Company, Dickson City, Pa., opened up a branch in this city during the past three months, giving employment to over twenty-five hands, and are reported to be doing a thriving business.

The wholesale dealers in every line have done a big business during the year, and the retailers, in most instances, report a good business.

Many streets have been greatly improved while a sewer, draining the western area of the city, has been completed this year. Many other improvements in streets and sewers are projected for the coming year.

The houses built during the year have not in number equalled the number erected in former years, although those constructed have, in the majority of instances, been for private use, and are of a very substantial character.

With the dawn of the new year many other things are being projected by city council, among them being a modern fire alarm system, together with a police patrol. The street committee also contemplates many improvements to the city's streets.

KEYSVILLE IS PROSPEROUS

One of the Largest Towns in Southside Virginia and Growing Fast.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
KEYSVILLE, VA., December 28.—Keysville, with one exception, is the largest and most important town between Richmond and Danville, situated on the Southern Railway, and the terminus of the Keysville and Durham Railroad. It has a population of about 1,000, and is the highest point between Richmond and Greensboro, at an elevation of 625 feet above sea level, and is consequently free from malaria. Within a radius of five miles gold has been discovered in paying quantities. Two large copper mines near town are in operation, working with most satisfactory results.

The town is built up with large brick storehouses. The merchants are in good shape financially, and a large score of country is supplied from their well-filled stores.

The Bank of Keysville has recently moved into their large, two-story brick building, and from the beginning has been doing a flourishing business. The Bank City has a branch office here and is getting a good share of the business of the town.

The Keysville Plow Works, of which Mr. J. P. Crawford is owner, is located here, and manufacture all kinds of iron mouldings, and are taxed to their utmost capacity to supply the increasing demand for their goods.

Keysville is now one of the best life tobacco markets in Southside Virginia. The three large warehouses are taxed to do the business, and buyers from the leading markets are at the daily sales, and, in addition, there are a number of local buyers. They get trade and tobacco from the

counties of Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg and Prince Edward.

The Keysville Mills, Inc. is one of the largest manufacturing flour and grist mills in Southside Virginia, and, although running their plant day and night, cannot keep up with their orders.

The Keysville Mattress Company, owned by Messrs. Farmer and Hamner, are making high-grade hair, cotton and shuck mattresses, and have a growing business.

Two telephone companies enter the town—the Ontario Telephone Company and the Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, giving local and long-distance connections to all parts of the country.

The finest mineral water has been discovered just outside the town limits, and the Keysville Tonic Springs has a large, commodious hotel on the property, in sight of town. Many tested the curative powers of the waters during the past season, and many wonderful cures made.

An artesian well has been dug by the Southern Railway Company, about 600 feet deep, from which they supply their engines with water. The water from this well is stronger in carbonic acid gas than any in the United States, except one well in California. Nearly all the people in town are using this water for drinking purposes, and are wild in their praises of its curative properties.

ROANOKE HAS DONE WELL

Building and Business Very Active, with No Evidence of Hard Times.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
ROANOKE, VA., December 28.—While the last month of the year 1907 has been visited by a financial frost, the third city of the State has had but a slight touch of it. It came at a time when three great business houses and one large manufacturing plant were in process of construction. That work is going ahead just as rapidly as the weather will permit. The closing month of the year also sees a new school building, which cost \$25,000, in operation, \$12,000 additions to two others, three new churches completed at a cost of \$35,000 and a \$15,000 addition to another church. It also sees the brick walls of a new manufacturing plant going up, the Norfolk and Western hurrying work on a new repair shop, and work resumed on bridges for the Tidewater, or Virginia Railway. The merchants report a good business trade, while the banks of the city, with deposits amounting to nearly \$5,000,000, and with plenty of currency (no script), gave their clerks a month's salary for a Christmas gift.

During the past year the taxable values of the city showed an increase over 1906 of over \$1,000,000. The city has expended \$250,000 in street and sewer improvements, the Virginia and Tennessee Telephone Company has

spent \$500,000 on a new plant and the Roanoke Railway and Electric Company has spent a like amount on a new power plant and extensions and double tracking. The streets of the city have been much improved, a new bridge has been erected over the Norfolk and Western at Tenth Street, N. W., at a cost of \$25,000, and all the bridges of the city have been improved. A new fire department house has been erected, another is to be built, and through the generosity of the Norfolk and Western a third engine has been added to the department. The police force will be doubled on the first of the year, and a new police station will be erected during 1908.

The new building of F. B. Thomas & Company, jobbers, which is of mill construction and cost \$35,000, is nearing completion, and work is progressing rapidly on the Strickland fireproof office building, which will cost \$75,000. The new manufacturing plant which will go in operation by spring, is the Roanoke Enameling Factory. This company is capitalized at \$60,000, and all the stock was taken in Roanoke. A new ice company has been organized, and the capacity of the Consolidated Company enlarged. The Roanoke Gas and Water Company, which owns the water supply of the city, has purchased a farm near the city, which has three large springs, and will double its capacity, and will be a growing business.

The extensive building operations have been described at length previously. Among the many new residences is the home of a young banker, which will cost about \$100,000.

The County Club house, which has been pictured in The Times-Dispatch, is on the Salem car line. During the last year more than 100 new residences have been built along that line, and the seven miles look like a suburban street.

Roanoke is not discouraged by the outlook for 1908. It looks for great things from the Virginia Railway, which is to be completed in the spring. All of its enterprises are doing well. There is no scarcity of money for legitimate purposes. The city is surrounded by a rich country, and being the headquarters of a great railway system, it is confident that it will not lessen the amount of work done here. There is much for encouragement in the outlook for 1908, and but little to cause one to doubt that Roanoke will push ahead during the coming year.

BOYDTON IS GROWING

Business Shows Steady Progress and Improvement Along All Lines.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BOYDTON, VA., December 28.—No town in Southside Virginia is in a more healthy financial condition than Boynton, and while there have been no new enterprises established in the town within the past year, the business has been steady, and a few of the storehouses as well as some of the residences have been improved.

The mercantile trade has grown, and several new stores have been added, making about fifteen in all, besides two drug stores.

The best evidence of the prosperity of the mercantile trade is the fact that there have been no failures here for many years. The two banks have maintained themselves splendidly during the late financial disturbance, and it is a matter of congratulation that both have paid all demands with cash. The tobacco interest has revived, and prices have been very satisfactory to the growers.

The Boydton Lumber and Manufacturing Company was established here in March, 1905, and employs quite a number of men. The first year the company declared a dividend of 30 per cent; the second year, they declared 35 per cent; and this year, after the assets \$20,000, will pay a dividend of 10 per cent.

LOUDOUN FARMS SOLD

Many Valuable Estates Change Hands at Very Fine Prices.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
LEESBURG, VA., December 28.—There has been great activity in the real estate market throughout Loudoun county during the past year, and this activity has had a marked effect on the business progress of Leesburg, the county seat. Twenty-five farms have been sold to Northern capitalists at prices ranging from \$50 to \$100 per acre. In nearly all cases the purchasers have established fine stock and breeding stables, and the majority of the sales have been of estates near and around Leesburg. It is estimated that \$500,000 have been involved in these sales.

Farm products have increased from 10 to 15 per cent, and a conservative estimate, have put their increased sales at 15 per cent. over last year. And this increase is general throughout the county. There are no new enterprises of manufacturing nature, but the healthy and steady growth and development of existing industries has been general and encouraging.

The banks at Purcellville, Round Hill and in Leesburg show from their last statement an increase of individual deposits and an accumulating surplus.

RADFORD FORGING AHEAD

Every Plant Running to Full Capacity and Business Has Revived.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
RADFORD, VA., December 28.—In spite of panicky times, Radford has felt none of the depression which we hear so much. None of the three banks have issued scrip, but, on the contrary, have been discounting right along. None of the works have reduced their forces, and no one has been laid off. The Radford Knitting Mills was established just at the time of the general business depression.

During the past year the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company's furnaces in the South, and increasing its output, making it one of the finest furnaces in the South, and increasing its capacity to 150 tons daily. The Radford Knitting Mills has been estab-

lished by Radford and Roanoke capital, with a pay roll of seventy-five girls, which is to be increased to double that number next year. The entire output is brought up ahead until July. It is also proposed by the stockholders to erect a cotton mill here during the coming year.

The Radford Water Power Company has spent three suits of money enlarging the power-house, in order that they may furnish electric power not only to all manufacturing plants now operated by electricity, but be able to induce new industries to locate here. A splendid new street car has been added to the old ones, and improvements made on the roadbed and at the pumping station of the water-works, the water being now pumped by electric pump.

All of the enterprises in town have run to their full capacity, and many have had to turn away orders. The Radford Knitting Mills report a successful business year and bright prospects for the year to come.

About fifty new residences and stores have been built, and a number of others are in process of construction, or soon will be built. Among the substantial residences to be erected the coming year are those of Mr. Henry McFarland, Jr., son of President McFarland, of the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company; the Presbyterian manse, the residence of Mr. W. W. Carr, treasurer of the Radford Water Power Company; of Mr. Walters, cashier of the Trust Company bank, and of Mr. J. B. Jordan, Commonwealth's attorney for Radford, and others.

St. Albans Fitting School was opened again this year, and the people are hopeful of securing the new State Normal School soon to be erected. In every way the prospects for Radford seem bright for the coming year, despite the general business depression.

BEDFORD'S GREAT RECORD

Greatest Amount of Railway Construction Ever Completed in History of County.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BEDFORD CITY, VA., December 28.—The year almost ended has been marked by the heaviest and most far-reaching railroad construction in the history of Bedford county. The Norfolk & Western has completed double tracking on nearly all the line through the entire breadth of the county, while the Tidewater or Virginia has opened up the south of the county for nearly forty miles. This work left here many thousands of dollars for labor and supplies, but at the same time increased industrial work, and the Norfolk & Western work is finished, the Virginia is nearly so, and yet business has adjusted itself to usual conditions with very little set back.

The post-office receipts for the half year ending December 28th will show an increase of 22 per cent. over the same period of last year, when business was at its best. Recently the Bedford City office has been designated as a government depository, a bill for a new building has been passed in Congress, and it is thought that this session, Bedford will be in the list.

The banks have met the money contraction with strong front. The deposits reach about \$700,000, and the cash on hand has been kept far on the side of safety.

The leaf tobacco marketed has been above usual quality, though not quite so good as hoped for, and prices have ruled high.

The merchants report excellent fall trade with a rush during the Christmas season.

Several residences were built during the year, but the most important works are the new freight and passenger depots of the Norfolk & Western, the massive concrete arch over the two tracks of the road, and the initial work of paving and macadamizing Bedford Avenue.

LEXINGTON DOING WELL

Banks in Good Shape and Farmers Are Prosperous.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
LEXINGTON, VA., December 28.—The year 1907 has been a measurably prosperous one to the people of Lexington and Rockbridge, due in part, no doubt, to the fact that this is an agricultural community. The farmer has been blessed with abundant crops, and his cattle and other sources of revenue have helped to increase his bank account.

The financial statements of the banks of Lexington, published December 11, 1907, show a healthy condition. Following are the deposits: First National Bank, \$382,931.20; Bank of Rockbridge, \$257,740.00; People's National Bank, \$210,529.84. It will thus be seen that the three banks of Lexington have on deposit nearly one million dollars.

Washington and Lee University has the largest enrolment in the history of the school, the number this year reaching nearly 450. The spirit of improvement has been manifest. Grand athletic walks have been laid through the grounds. The most notable enterprise of the year is the erection of the Carnegie Library Building, now under construction, at a cost of \$45,000. The building is assuming a completed shape, and presents an imposing appearance with its magnificent dome and stately pilasters.

Several new buildings have been added to the Virginia Military Institute this year. The stately library building is an imposing structure, erected at a cost of \$30,000, and the heating and power plant cost \$35,000. Other buildings are contemplated in the near future.

Several handsome dwellings are now under construction in Lexington, while the completion and furnishing of Hotel Hart and the reconstructed "Castle Hill" as a students' boarding house have added to the values of West Lexington. A long trestle bridge is now being built across the ravine leading to "Castle Hill" the same measuring 450 feet in length and 50 feet in height.

Dreaded LaGrippe

It may surprise many of us to know there are more than a thousand well-defined cases of La Grippe in this city. That the average time lost by sickness is five and a half days—house confinement. That the mortality shows a marked increase.

After the heavy strain upon our purse, made by the holiday purchases, are YOU prepared financially to meet sickness and possibly the expense of death in your family? Then do not take the risk, or, worst still, "do not force your family to take the risk," most especially when our company will protect you to the extent of paying you

For Any Sickness

\$86.66 per month for six months; \$86.66 per month for

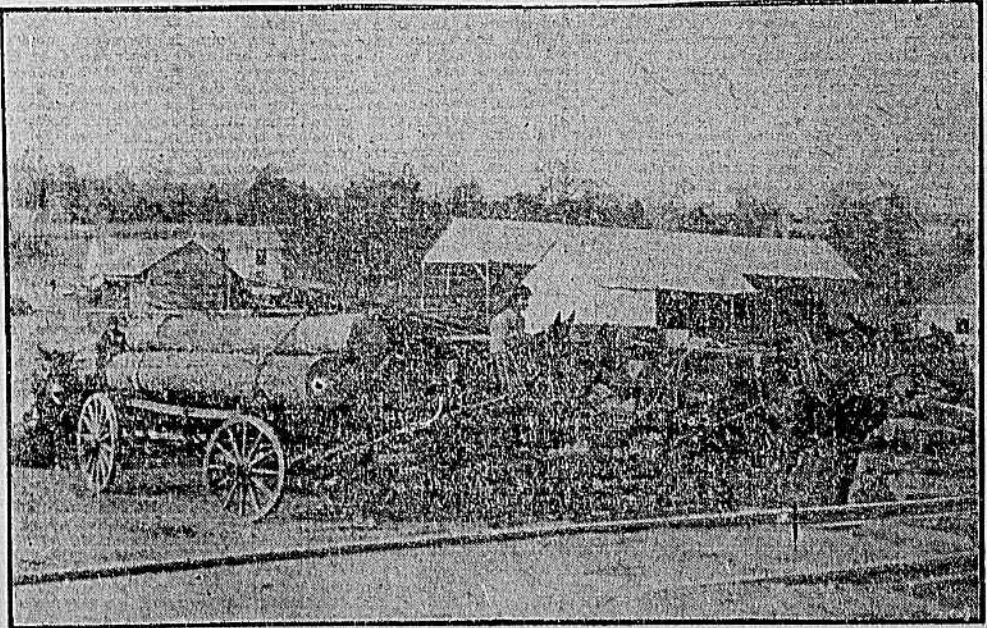
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